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CHRISTMAS — 1950

# RARE PLANTS

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**RARE PLANT CLUB, KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A. I V E D**

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Dec. 31 1951  
**A REDWOOD TREE** ★  
U. S. Department of Agriculture  
for **CHRISTMAS!**

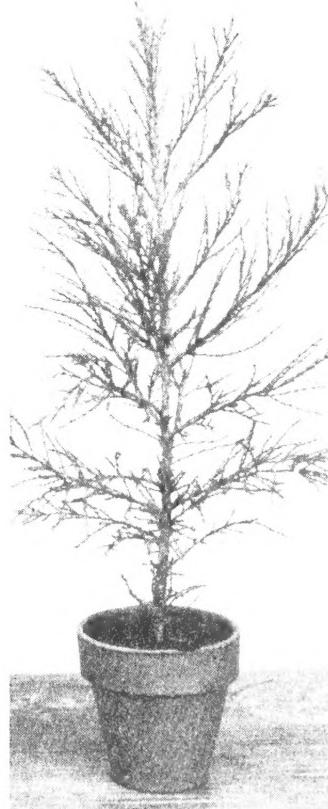
for yourself — for an outstanding GIFT

A live, potted, baby Redwood Tree from California—to grow indoors, or to plant outside in proper climate. Redwoods are growing around the world, and in eastern and southern U. S. Read the facts—check YOUR location on the climatic map (inside pages)—perhaps YOU too can grow a Redwood Tree!

## PHOTOS

AT LEFT—Sierra Redwood (*Sequoia gigantea*) born about the time of the first Christmas, 1950 years ago.

BELOW—A baby Redwood of the same species, with ALL its roots, grown in a pot by the Rare Plant Club.



A real Redwood for a table Christmas Tree! It's easy. Lift tree and soil-ball out of shipping pot—set in clay pot same size. Wrap pot with Christmas paper, or set clay pot in a colored plastic pot to fit.



## **A REDWOOD TREE for CHRISTMAS!**

**for yourself — for an outstanding GIFT**

Almost everyone agrees that the Redwood or Sequoia is the most beautiful and wonderful tree on earth. Anyone who has walked in the cool deep-shaded aisles of a Redwood forest, treading the springy mattress of fallen brown leaves between gigantic trees that seem to touch the clouds—trees that were already huge when the Christmas shepherds saw the Star in the East—feels it to be one of the greatest thrills ever experienced.

Can YOU grow one of these majestic Redwoods, a tree that might live for 25 or even 50 generations of your descendants, to be a living monument to you, centuries after man-made monuments are gone and forgotten. Or, is it true that these greatest of living things cannot be grown except in California?

### **Many in East U. S.—Hundreds in Foreign Lands**

The following list of California Sequoias—of both species—has been gathered by spare-time correspondence in less than two years. The list grows constantly, as we offer a rare plant to anyone who sends us a good photo and data of any Sequoia outside of California, which we do not already have. (Gift of seeds, outside U.S.)

#### **Sierra Redwood — *Sequoia Gigantea***

Philadelphia has 5, in city and suburbs—oldest 96 years. In Pa., Lancaster and Harrisburg have one each. One at Bristol, R. I., about 60 years. One on Long Island about 40 years old. One at Hickory, N. C. One at Oklahoma University. One at the national capital in Washington, D. C. About another dozen of older Sequoias, we are pursuing to verify. Of younger trees, the list is over 100 in eastern and southern states.

#### **Coast Redwood — *Sequoia Sempervirens***

S. Carolina has six, four of them over 100 years—at Aiken, Mt. Carmel, Summerville, Charleston, Darlington and Abbeville. Norfolk, Va., has one over 100 years, and others from 10 to 20 years old. One in Washington, D. C., one in Wilmington, one in N. Jersey, three in Maryland. Young Redwoods are scattered from five in Greenwich, Conn., to six in Roanoke, Va.—a number in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas and even one in Arizona.

#### **Foreign Lands Far Surpass the East U. S.**

Of both species, 500 trees is a conservative estimate—Spain leads with a grove of Coast Redwoods about 150 years old, and S. Africa has two groves—all irrigated, in hot country. Many 100 ft. S. giganteas grow along the Rhine, and one near the cold Baltic. Hundreds grow in England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Guatemala, Brazil.

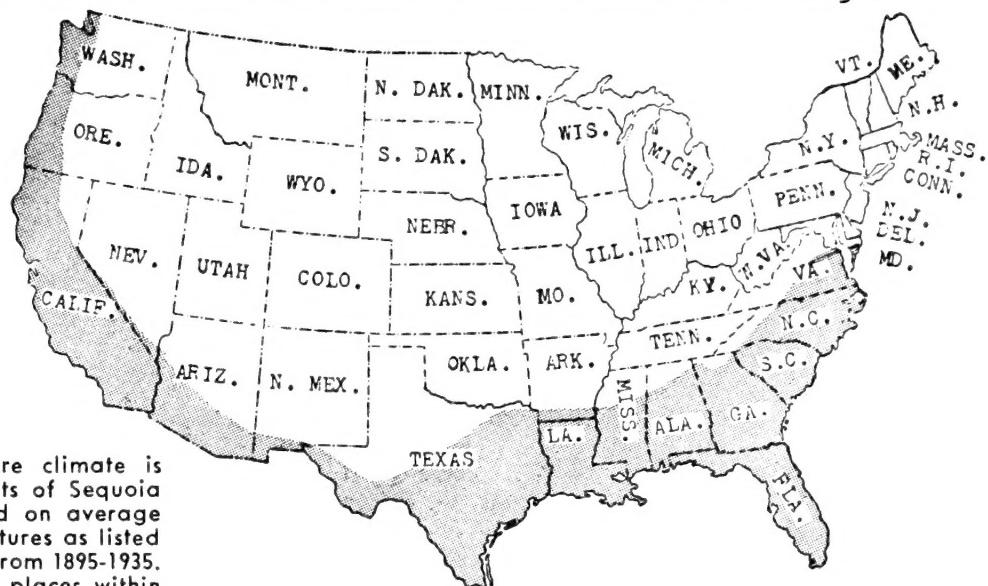


NEVER before published!

## 1. *Sequoia sempervirens*—"everliving"

Called the "Coast Redwood," it is by far the most tender of the two Sequoias—in fact, about half "The Redwood Family" are more hardy. Native to the coastal-fog-belt of California, it grows in an irregular strip up to 35 miles wide and about 500 miles long, from Monterey County north to the Chetco River in southwest Oregon. Here the fogs pour in from the ocean—at least at night—many months of the year. It grows best on the lower slopes or in valley bottoms where alluvial soil is deep, and fresh seeping spring-water is not far below the surface all year. It does NOT like stagnant swamp water, like its near relatives, the southern swamp cypresses. Little or no snow falls in most of the coast redwood country, but 30 to 100 inches of rain falls here in winter. Temperatures most of the year range from 45 to 65 degrees, with extremes from 15 above zero to 100 degrees.

With enough water,  
they live without fog—  
a grove in hot, dry  
Spain is 150 years old  
—along an irrigation  
ditch.



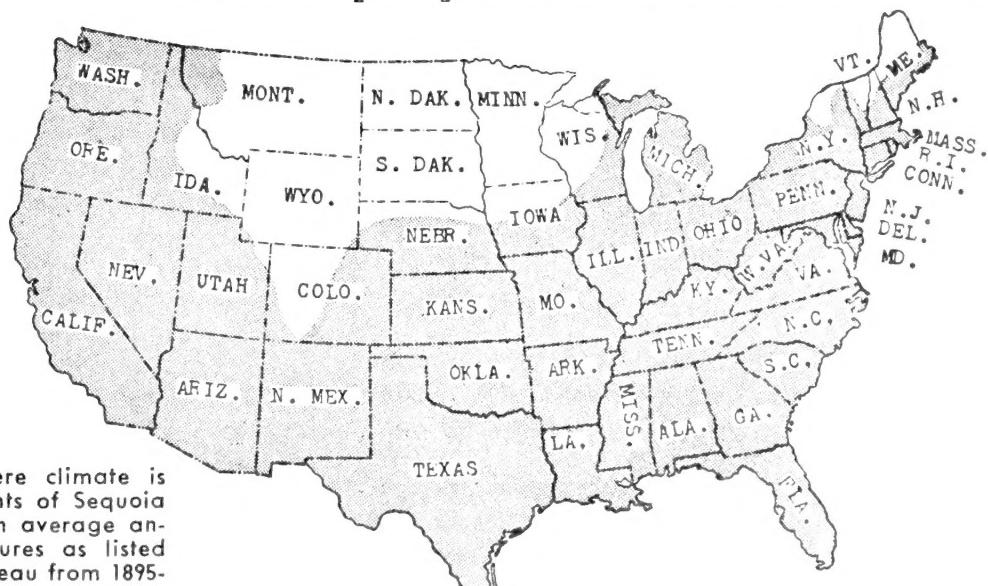
Shaded zone shows where climate is closest to the requirements of *Sequoia sempervirens*. Map based on average annual minimum temperatures as listed by U. S. Weather Bureau from 1895-1935. Local conditions in some places within this zone may or may NOT be suited to this Sequoia.

## 2. *Sequoia gigantea* (*washingtonia*)—Big Tree, Sierra Redwood

While not the tallest, this Sequoia is the oldest and most massive living thing on earth. Not so tender as the Coast Redwood, it offers a wider range of choice in growing conditions. It is native to the western (rainy) slopes of the inland Sierra Mountains of California, from Lake Tahoe south for 260 miles to the Sequoia National Forest south of Yosemite Valley. Its numbers are much less than the Coast Redwood, scattered in 70 separate groves of six to several thousand trees.

The Giant Sequoia grows naturally at elevations of 4,000 to 8,000 feet, lower in the north and higher in the south. Temperatures here range from 10 below zero to 100 above—annual precipitation is from 45 to 60 inches.

The Big Tree does not require altitude—over 100 of them are thriving near us, close to sea level—in a Coast Redwood district.



Shaded zone shows where climate is closest to the requirements of *Sequoia gigantea*. Map based on average annual minimum temperatures as listed by the U. S. Weather Bureau from 1895-1935. Local conditions in some places within this zone may or may NOT be suited to this Sequoia.

# The Redwood Family (Taxodiaceae)

15 Species—plus 21 Varieties (40 extinct species)—for a variety of climates

Almost everyone is surprised to learn that there are 15 species plus 21 varieties in the 9 genera of Taxodiaceae, the Redwood branch of the Pine family. These 36 different "Redwoods" vary from dwarf shrubs to giant trees, growing in various climates, in many parts of the world. In foliage and general appearance, most of them resemble either *Sequoia gigantea* or *Sequoia sempervirens*.

Although botanists differ, here is the best list of "Redwoods" we have been able to compile to date:

1. SEQUOIA—Redwood. 2 species plus 6 varieties, evergreen.

*S. sempervirens*—Coast Redwood, California, hardy to 15° above zero.

3 var.—*adpressa*, *glaucia*, *pendula*.

*S. gigantea*—Giant Sequoia, California, hardy to 25 below, if protected when young, if handled right—if not, to zero or above.

3 var.—*aureum*, *glaucum*, *pendulum*.

2. METASEQUOIA—Dawn Redwood. 1 species, deciduous, recently found alive in China.

*M. glyptostroboides*—hardy in Mass., S. Alaska.

3. TAXODIUM—Bald Cypress. 3 species plus 6 varieties, not a true cypress.

*T. distichum*—Southern Bald Cypress, S.E. states, deciduous, hardy to New England when protected. 5 varieties:

- pyramidalatum*—narrow, slender with short ascending branches.
- fastigiatum*—slender, upright, virgate branches.
- nanum*—dwarf, shrubby, short branches.
- nutans*—branches spreading, nodding at tips.
- microphyllum*—shrub, short spreading branches.

*T. ascendens*—Pond Cypress, southern U. S. —one variety, *pendulum*, a "weeper".

*T. mucronatum*—Mexican Cypress. Mexico, evergreen, largest diameter tree. Not hardy.

4. GLYPTOSTROBUS—Chinese Swamp Redwood.

1 or 2 species, evergreen.

*G. heterophyllus*—China, shrub to 10 feet, not hardy. (Some botanists class as *Taxodium*.) Also called *G. pensilis*.

5. CRYPTOMERIA—Japanese Cedar. 1 species plus 7 varieties, evergreen.

*C. japonica*—Japan, China, evergreen tree to 125 ft., not a true cedar, hardy even in New England when sheltered. 7 varieties:

- elegans*—low dense tree, leaves bright green turning to bronzy red in autumn
- araucaroides*—pyramidal, short thick leaves.
- compacta*—large compact shrub, bluish-green foliage.
- pyramidalis*—narrow, compact bluish-green all year.
- Lobbii*—compact, bright green foliage.
- nana*—dwarf, procumbent, dense.
- spiralis*—slender shrub, falcate leaves spiraled around branchlets.

6. CUNNINGHAMIA—Cunninghamia. 2 species, evergreen, hardy to 15° above zero.

*C. lanceolata* or *sinensis*—China Fir—bushy tree to 80 ft. tall.

*C. Konishii*—Formosan Cunninghamia, smaller leaves—grown also in S. W. China. (Some botanists class as *Taiwania*.)

7. ARTHROTAXIS—Arthrotaxis. Tasmania, 3 species, evergreen, probably very hardy.

*A. selaginoides*—mountain tree to 45 feet.

*A. cupressoides*—up to 40 ft. tall.

*A. laxifolia*—up to 30 feet.

(Some botanists class as *Cunninghamia*.)

8. SCIADOPITYS—Umbrella Pine. 1 species, 2 varieties, hardy to Maine, if protected.

*S. verticillata*—evergreen, requires moist soil all year, to 100 ft. 2 varieties:

—dwarf.

—variegated foliage.

9. TAIWANIA—Taiwania. 1 species.

*T. cryptomerioides*—tall evergreen, Formosa & S. W. China—scale-like leaves—not hardy.

If you have not room enough for a giant Redwood, or live in an unsuitable climate, perhaps you can grow one of the dwarfs or one of the more hardy varieties. The Rare Plant Club is attempting to build up a complete collection of all 36 "Redwoods," which we believe has never been done. Wherever you are, if you want to grow one Redwood or a grove of many varieties, let us know your climate and location problem. We may be able to help you.

## RARE PLANT CLUB

A small group of us, native to the Midwest, now live in California. We have been delighted with the hundreds—yes, thousands of plants, trees and flowers, native and imported from all over the world, that thrive in this mild climate. We were surprised to discover that a number of these plants we never saw before would grow in other parts of the U.S., with proper care. So we wanted to share them with our friends and former neighbors back home. What began as a hobby soon swamped us with demands—the Rare Plant Club resulted.

Now anyone in the U.S. can get their name on our mailing list. From time to time, we mail information (like this folder on Sequoias) about rare plants they can perhaps grow. We try to tell all we can about the climate, soil, planting and care each plant requires, so YOU can decide whether YOU would like to try to grow such a plant, indoors or outdoors.

No obligation, no dues, no expense—unless you decide you want one or more of the plants we describe. Then you may order and we ship you the plant of your choice with directions for growing. We reserve the right to stop accepting names for our mailing list, any time it gets too big for us to afford the mailing expense. Then too, if we don't hear anything from you in a year or so, we drop your name from the list, assuming you are no longer interested—to make room for someone who is.

If YOU would like to get on our mailing list, just drop us a postcard or letter saying—"Put me on your mailing list." That's all there is to it—but BE SURE to spell your name and address clearly.

We will appreciate your cooperation in helping the Rare Plant Club increase its service to the thousands of folks who have been hoping for rare plants like these to become available.

# 6 "Redwoods" (*Taxodiaceae*) Ready NOW

Order only those hardy for YOUR climate—except for growing indoors



*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

## DAWN REDWOOD

An ancient form of Redwood Tree, believed extinct 20 million years ago, recently found still alive in China. "Needles" opposite instead of spiral, deciduous tree about 100 ft. tall, foliage light green, soft, fernlike. One of the most hardy of Redwoods, baby trees have survived winter in Boston, Philadelphia & Juneau. No more seeds from Red China—cuttings are now the only way. This tree and the "Bald Cypress", almost twins, will probably succeed in every state.



*Taxodium distichum*

## BALD CYPRESS

In Dixie, this twin of the Dawn Redwood, unkempt in its native swamps, gives no hint of its beauty under proper cultivation. Away from swamps, it escapes diseases and pests, has no "cypress knees", grows to a broad stately column of dense, fernlike foliage which frosts to a rich orange-brown before falling. In the Sierra Nevada foothills, we took seeds from one 100 ft. tall and 101 years old. Hardy to So. Maine—a beautiful sister of the Dawn Redwood.



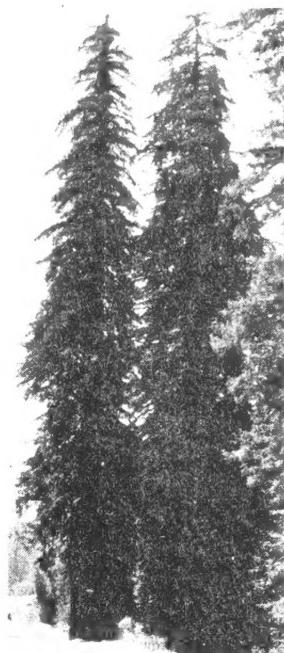
*Sequoia gigantea*

## SIERRA REDWOOD

The largest, oldest and most spectacular tree on earth. Often lives 3 to 4,000 years. Young trees often flare at the base resembling an Indian tepee half-hid by branches which sweep the ground for centuries. Thousand-year-old trees have no branches for the first 150 feet. Foot-thick bark of light cinnamon-brown; foliage of tiny scales varying in color from bluish to golden green. Not good on a 35 ft. lot.

## COAST REDWOOD

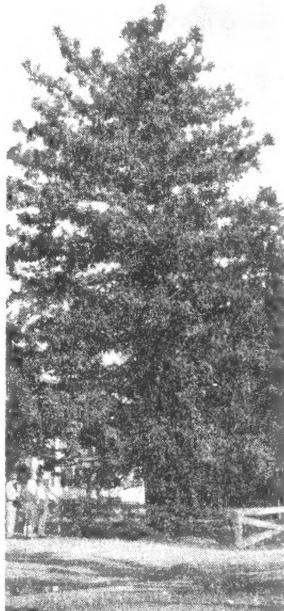
The world's tallest tree, more slender than Sierra Redwood. Dark brown bark, evergreen foliage coarsely fernlike, tree spire-like when crowded, grows 3 feet per year in right place. Sprouts new trees from stumps. Thrives in ocean fog, but also lives in hot, dry Spain along an irrigation ditch. Tender to cold below 15 above zero. Likes crowded forest conditions. May live 2,000 years; logs last centuries on ground. Burl (knobs) cut from the trunk, sprout shoots in a dish of water.



*Sequoia Sempervirens*

## CHINA FIR

Evergreen from East Asia, up to 80 feet tall, with moderately slender trunk and very bushy "feather-duster" crown. Grown as far north as Pennsylvania but may die back in very severe winters, sprouts from stump becoming very bushy. Is safer south of Ohio River—two trees in Bowling Green, Va. over a century old, best in the U. S. Cones about 2 in. long, pine-like but with thin, sharp-pointed scales. A vigorous tree, suggests a girl with a "windblown bob", not for cold climate.



*Cunninghamia sinensis*

## JAPAN CEDAR

Erect, plume-shaped evergreen tree to 125 feet, with dark brownish bark. Often called plume cryptomeria—each branchlet a plume, each branch is a larger composite plume. Foliage dark green, coarse 3 or 4-angled needles  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 in. long. Cones  $\frac{3}{4}$  in., be-whiskered looking. Much grown in Japan and China, for beauty, for excellent lumber. Has proved hardy to New York, in sheltered spots, even to Boston.



*Cryptomeria japonica*

SOON—all 15 species, plus varieties

## BOOKS

The following books, approved by our editorial board, POSTPAID at publisher's price, anywhere in the U.S.A.

### YOU, TOO, CAN GROW A REDWOOD TREE

REDWOOD TREE . . . . . \$ .50  
Two—mail \$1.00 • Six—\$2.50 • Twelve—\$4.50

BIG TREES . . . . . \$2.50

REDWOODS OF COAST & SIERRA . . \$2.00

### SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE

Pamphlets—by U. of Calif. Professors  
Four—total 40 p.—postpaid in U.S.A. \$ .50

CULTIVATED CONIFERS in  
NORTH AMERICA . . . . . \$10.00

SHRUBS & VINES for AMERICAN  
GARDENS . . . . . \$7.50

HORTUS SECOND . . . . . \$7.50

## ATLAS FERTILIZER EMULSION

PINT Tin—postpaid anywhere in U.S.A. \$1.00

## OTHER RARE PLANTS READY TO SHIP NOW

We import from Asia, Africa, Pacific Islands, Australia, S. America, Europe. Plants that make good, we grow to ship to proper climates.

JELECOTE'S PINE—*Pinus patula*. Featured by Sunset Magazine Dec. '49 as "The world's most beautiful medium-sized pine." From Mexican mountains, hardy only to 20 above zero, more tender when young. Very rare in the U. S. Soft needles to 12 in. drooping like silk tassels. Under 6 in. \$1.00—in 1951, 6-9 in. \$2.00 ea.

AUSTRALIAN PINE or HORSEHAIR TREE—*Casuarina equisetifolia*. Not a pine but looks like one. Needles fine as horsehair, "lath-house" shade. Tree to 70 ft., "bead-like" cone to ½ in. long, seeds like lettuce. Can live in dry heat, but makes tall windbreaks along swamp canals in Florida. So. half of U. S. only. Now ready—under 6 in. \$1.00 ea.—6-9 in. \$2.00 ea.

FRANKLINIA — *F. altamaha* (*Gordonia*), named for Benj. Franklin by John Bartram who found it in Georgia 1765. Once almost extinct. Slender shrub up to 20 ft., flowers a single cup of 5 white petals to 3 in. across, with center of gold stamens. Blooms in S. in summer, in N. E. states Aug. to Oct., leaves turn scarlet and bronze with frost. Family Theaceae, same as Camellia and "tea from China." Hardy in N. Y. One to a customer—9-12 in. \$3.00 each.

## SPRING AND SUMMER 1951

We expect to have several more species of "The Redwood Family" and perhaps several of the varieties, in small sizes. After several years' search, we have what are probably the first *Athrotaxis* seeds ever to reach this country, and have a hope for seeds of the other two species by Spring. About 50 other rare plants are here, more arrive each month. Some have never been in the U. S. before.

## TREES

Our trees are pot-grown, shipped POTTED—never "bare root" wrapped in damp moss. This extra care costs two to three times as much, but it is essential to insure that your baby trees reach you with minimum shock and abundant vigor.

Orders from northern states, received from about Dec. 15 to Mar. 1, are held for shipment until Spring, to avoid the danger of freezing in transit. As the number of trees available each year is still less than the demand, you may place your order any time of year, and we will reserve the trees you want. Please tell us the date when you would like to have your trees arrive. Shipments to the South can be made all winter.

Our light, strong shipping pot and package has been perfected to save transportation costs. We sent a potted *Sequoia* 2 feet tall to Germany by AIR—it weighed only 4 lbs.

Prices include the cost of packing. They apply to not more than three trees of each kind. Ask for a special quotation on larger quantities. If any size or kind of tree is sold out when your order arrives, we will write you what we do have available—or ship the size you list as second choice, adjusting the difference in cost.

## PRICES — DECEMBER 1950

Prices and terms subject to change without notice.

**TERMS** — Cash with Order — you pay express charges c.o.d. We mail you a notice on date of shipment so you can watch for trees.

	Height in inches — 6-9"	9-12"	12-15"	15-18"	18-24"
Metasequoia	5.00	6.50	8.00	10.00	12.00
Taxodium					
distichum	3.00	3.50			
Sequoia gigantea	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00
Cryptomeria					
(species)	3.00				
Sequoia					
sempervirens	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00
Cunninghamia					
sinensis	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.50	5.00

Metasequoia and Taxodium distichum shed leaves in winter—bare for Christmas. May be ordered any time for planting out the FIRST Spring, as they are hardy when protected, even in northern states.

## GUARANTEE

We use the utmost care to have all our items true to name and as described, all plants, seeds, bulbs, etc., healthy, free from disease, vigorous, and carefully packed for shipment. The Rare Plant Club gives no warranty, express or implied, as to the growth or productiveness of any stock we sell. Liability in all instances is limited to the purchase price. We cannot be held responsible for your culture, soil or weather conditions, nor for the acts of the transportation company. However, we are sincerely interested in helping you to succeed in growing the rare plants we offer, and want to assist you in every way that is reasonable.

### BANK REFERENCE

Wells-Fargo Bank, San Francisco, Calif.

## RARE PLANT CLUB

208 McAllister Ave.  
KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA

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Ship Trees  
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Please accept my order for the following:

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YOU, TOO, CAN GROW A  
REDWOOD . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost—Trees . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**BIG TREES** . . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Redwood Humus . . \$

## **REDWOODS of COAST & SIERRA \$**

**Redwood Humus . . \$**  
(Dry, approx. 2 lbs.—\$1.00)

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS PAMPH. \$

Atlas Fert. Emulsion \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Pint, makes 30 qals.—\$1.00)

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## RARE PLANT CLUB

208 McAllister Ave.

KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA

# A REDWOOD TREE for CHRISTMAS!

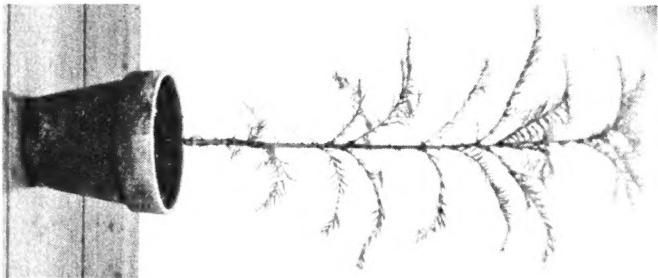
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### PHOTOS

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A real Redwood for a table Christmas Tree! It's easy. Lift tree and soil-ball out of shipping pot—set in clay pot same size. Wrap pot with Christmas paper, or set clay pot in a colored plastic pot to fit.

**Return Postage Guaranteed**